

REMARKS

Further to the response filed September 15, 2006, this Amendment and Request for Continued Examination is being submitted to address the issues raised in the Advisory Action dated October 12, 2006.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 27 and 34 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. In doing so, the Advisory Action states "it is clearly seen that the claims are directed towards one set of rounds, and not two as argued by the applicants." It is respectfully submitted that the recitation of "a plurality of successive rounds of said algorithm" does not limit the claim to only one set of successive rounds. Rather, two or more sets of successive rounds inherently include "a plurality of successive rounds". It is respectfully submitted that, upon reviewing the specification, a person of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the meaning of the claims.

Nevertheless, to remove the issue and enable the application to advance to allowance, claims 27 and 31 have been amended to recite that the plurality of successive rounds comprises a first set of successive rounds consisting of the first three rounds of the algorithm, and a second set of successive rounds consisting of the last three rounds of the algorithm. Support for this recitation can be found in the specification, for example at page 12, lines 5-12. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants' prior response pointed out that the Ohki patent has an effective date which is later than Applicants' claimed priority date, and therefore does not qualify as prior art. In response, the Advisory Action requested a translation of the foreign priority papers.

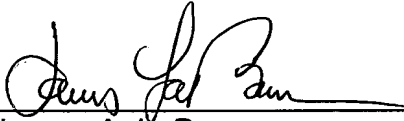
Pursuant thereto, a certified translation of the priority document is being provided herewith.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of pending claims 23-37 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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